

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098408
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TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, SHUM, SOCI

SUBJECT: 62ND ECOSOC: PROPOSAL FOR MORE FREQUENT
MEETINGS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: (A) USUN 1262; (B) STATE 70941; (C) SAN JOSE 1255

1. DEPT RELUCTANTLY AGREES THAT, BECAUSE OF REPORTEDLY
INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN ECOSOC FOR MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC), PROPOSAL NOT BE
FORMALLY RAISED IN ECOSOC THIS YEAR. MISSION SHOULD,
HOWEVER, BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES, EITHER PUBLIC OR
PRIVATE, TO UNDERLINE NEED FOR MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS
BOTH TO MAKE HRC MORE RESPONSIVE TO DEVELOPING HUMAN
RIGHTS NEEDS AND TO CLEAR UP TROUBLESOME BACKLOG OF WORK.
WE WOULD PLAN TO PURSUE THIS IDEA AT 32ND GA UNDER MAJOR
AGENDA ITEM SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVE
APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS FOR IMPROVING ENJOYMENT OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 098408

HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S GENERAL STATEMENT ON
HUMAN RIGHTS, WE BELIEVE THAT LOWENSTEIN STATEMENT,
SUGGESTED PARA 2A REF (A), MIGHT WELL CONCENTRATE ON
REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF RECENT HRC SESSION AND PROGRAM
OF WORK FOR NEXT AND SUCCEEDING SESSIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE

MISSION'S VIEW ON THIS AND IDEAS FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT.

3. WITH REGARD TO PARA 2B OF REF (A), MISSION SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT PROPOSAL FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ORIGINALLY PUT FORWARD BY COSTA RICA, IS ALREADY ON GA AGENDA AND THAT COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER PLANS TO ATTEND GA TO LOBBY PERSONALLY FOR IT (SEE REFS B AND C). WHILE WE WANT TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO COSTA RICANS, WE ALSO WISH TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE TRYING TO UPSTAGE THEM. BESIDES, TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS SUGGEST PROPOSAL HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF WIDE ACCEPTANCE IF PRINCIPAL INITIATIVE COMES FROM SMALL HUMAN RIGHTS-ORIENTED COUNTRY LIKE COSTA RICA. BEFORE GA CONVENES WE WILL WANT TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH COSTA RICANS AND SWEDES (WHO PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE WHEN ITEM WAS DEBATED AT 28TH GA), AS WELL AS WEO GROUP AND KEY AFRICANS, ABOUT TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED. WOULD WELCOME USUN SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOLLOWING ECOSOC SESSION.

4. RE PARA 2C, REF (A), WE AGREE THAT A RESOLUTION ON TORTURE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS SESSION OF ECOSOC. DEPT WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH RES WOULD LAY GROUNDWORK FOR PURSUING THE SUGGESTION MADE BY AMB YOUNG IN HIS ECOSOC SPEECH TO ESTABLISH A GROUP UNDER UN AEGIS TO IDENTIFY MOST FLAGRANT INSTANCES OF TORTURE. DEPENDING UPON RESULTS OF PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD PLAN TO MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AT 32ND GA. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON ANY SPECIFIC DUTCH OR FRG PLANS FOR RESOLUTION ON TORTURE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 098408

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S LATEST THINKING ON U.S. POSTURE VIS-A-VIS RACE DECADE AND WORLD CONFERENCE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF IMPACT OF HERZOG STATEMENT AND LIKELY HANDLING OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE REPORT.

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